

SENATOR MATZKE: That this amendment proposed by Senator Hall is not germane to the Kristensen amendment. I would ask the Chair's ruling in the germaneness issue.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Would you state for the benefit of the Chair what your rationale is for questioning the germaneness?

SENATOR MATZKE: Well the Hall amendment is really an attempt to rewrite the total bill with a different philosophy and I think Senator Hall has been very forthright in saying it is a policy decision. It's a total rewrite of the original bill. The Kristensen amendment relates to a collateral issue involving getting consent of the court to an adoption in a divorce case and the total rewrite of the bill is not germane to the Kristensen procedural matter which is covered by his amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall, do you have a response?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members, yes. The issue is to the underlying subject matter as I believe our germaneness rule reads and the Kristensen amendment. To argue that the Hall amendment is not germane to the Kristensen amendment, but yet Kristensen's amendment could be germane to 712 seems to be illogical at best. The amendment clearly deals with the subject matter that was introduced with regard to LB 712. It deals with the adoption and placement issues and it is as germane as germane can be to the amendment unless Senator Kristensen's amendment as a collateral issue is somehow not germane to LB 712 in its entirety and that, if the ruling is on the Hall amendment that it is not germane to the Kristensen amendment, then I can't understand how the Chair could find a subsequent point of order that the Kristensen amendment could be germane to 712.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. In looking at the bill I believe that the amendment is not germane to the Kristensen amendment. The Kristensen amendment is a specific amendment to a specific section, Section 14 of LB 712. The Hall amendment is clearly germane to the bill, but as I understand at least the practice of ruling on precedent in the past, the question is, is it germane to the matter before the body at this time. The bill itself is not before us, is not the matter before us at the moment, the Kristensen amendment is and the Hall amendment, I would rule that the Hall amendment is not germane to the Kristensen amendment. Senator Hall.